

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-37, 43-47, and 49-66 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 3, 13, 16, 18, 24, 29, 31, 32, 35-37, 43, 49-50, 55, 61-63 and 65 being the independent claims. Claims 38-42 and 48 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 3, 13, 16, 18, 24, 29, 31, 32, 35-37, 43, 49, 50, 55, and 61-66 have been amended. Applicants submit that support for these amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 7, 12, 22, 23, 34, 41, and 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Those claims have not been rewritten in that form at this time, however, because Applicants believe for the reasons discussed below that the pending independent claims are allowable.

Claims 1, 2, 3-11, 13-15, 29-31, and 36 were objected to for the reasons detailed in the Office Action, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's suggested amendments and have amended the claims to adopt those suggestions. Withdrawal of the objections is therefore requested.

Claims 1-3, 8-11, 13-18, 24-30, 32, 33, 35-37, 50, 51, 54-56, 59, and 61-66 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,154,571 B1 (Cox, et al.). The other claims were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Cox, et al. either alone or in combination with one or more of U.S. Patent No. 6,359,905 (Ogino, et al.), U.S. Publication No. US2001/0019659 A1(Hirai), and U.S.

Patent No. 6,661,904 (Sasich). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention is directed to a data processing system including a maintenance apparatus that receives an addition level of anti-forgery information as a toner image electrophotographically formed on a print medium and an image processing apparatus that adds antiforgery information as an electrophotographic toner image. Each of the other independent claims also recite features relating to electrophotographically forming an image and/or to an electrophotographic toner image. Applicants submit that Cox, et al. and the other cited art fail to disclose or suggest at least these feature relating to electrophotographically forming a toner image. Cox, et al. and Hirai merely disclose a technique for adding a watermark, and Ogino merely discloses a copy protection technique for a DVD. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present invention recited in the independent claims is patentable over the cited art.

The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections and objections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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